

Community resources

[Follow us on Twitter](#) [Check our Reddit](#) [Twitter this](#) [Digg this page](#) [Contact us on IRC](#)

courage is contagious

Viewing cable 06BOGOTA9277, GOC AND FARC CONTINUE MEDIA EXCHANGE ON

If you are new to these pages, please read an introduction on the [structure of a cable](#) as well as how to [discuss them](#) with others. See also the [FAQs](#)

Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06BOGOTA9277**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06BOGOTA9277	2006-10-06 21:56	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0020
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #9277/01 2792156
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 062156Z OCT 06
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9677
INFO RUEHSW/AMEMBASSY BERN IMMEDIATE 1164
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 7183
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 8308
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ OCT 8280
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 4337
RUEHMD/AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE 9416
RUEHNP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE 9619
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE 0949
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE 5008
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBO/USMILGP BOGOTA CO IMMEDIATE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 1386

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 009277

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/06/2016

TAGS: [MARR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [CO](#) [FR](#) [SP](#) [SZ](#)

SUBJECT: GOC AND FARC CONTINUE MEDIA EXCHANGE ON
HUMANITARIAN ACCORD

REF: BOGOTA 8946

Classified By: Ambassador William B. Wood.

Reason: 1.4(b,d)

¶1. (C) Summary: The GOC and FARC have exchanged media statements in recent days on the possibility of creating an "encounter zone" to discuss a humanitarian exchange of FARC-held hostages for FARC terrorists imprisoned by the GOC. President Uribe insists any such talks be a prelude to substantive peace discussions with the FARC, a prospect the terrorist group heavily conditioned but did not discount. The public exchanges have generated intense media speculation on prospects for a humanitarian accord, but both sides appear to remain far apart on the conditions for launching substantive talks. End summary.

¶2. (C) Uribe announced September 27 that he was willing to discuss with the FARC a proposal on a humanitarian accord. Reading from a prepared text, Uribe said the GOC would consider an exchange of hostages, including a FARC proposal that the GOC withdraw armed forces from two municipalities in the state of Valle del Cauca to create an "encounter zone" for discussions. Casa Narino Communications Director Jorge Mario Eastman told us Uribe's response was prompted by a September 26 FARC statement criticizing the GOC's intransigence. Eastman explained that Uribe wanted to "open the door" to a humanitarian deal and to highlight GOC flexibility. He reiterated that Uribe is eager to start direct talks with the FARC, but not at any price. Uribe wants to avoid any similarities to former President Pastrana's despeje and to also link any humanitarian accord to the start of broader peace talks.

¶3. (U) The FARC tossed the ball back to the GOC in an open letter from the FARC Secretariat on October 1. The letter listed FARC requirements for humanitarian exchange talks and included a laundry list of additional issues the FARC insists are prerequisites to negotiations on a "political solution to the social and armed conflict." The GOC responded with a communique on October 2. The communique reiterated the GOC's commitment to discuss talks on a humanitarian accord, linked the creation of an "encounter zone" to a cease-fire, establishment of deadlines and the FARC's acceptance of specific security conditions, and noted the GOC's willingness to convoke a "constituent assembly" as part of a broader peace process.

¶4. (U) Uribe elaborated on the GOC position in an October 3 radio interview. He made it clear that the GOC is willing to meet with the FARC, but emphasized that any humanitarian accord needs to be part of a broader peace process. Uribe said a peace agreement with the FARC might require constitutional amendments to provide amnesty for more serious crimes. In that case, it should be expected that the paramilitaries would ask for similar consideration rather than treatment under the Justice and Peace Law.

¶5. (C) Longtime political operative and former presidential candidate Alvaro Leyva told us October 2 that he has met three times with President Uribe since August 7 to discuss ways to start GOC-FARC negotiations. He said the FARC's October 1 letter should be read positively, since it is the first time that the FARC has accepted the notion of broader peace talks with the Uribe government. He suggested that a demilitarized "encounter zone" could be created by the end of October, but stressed that the GOC and FARC would need to overcome their mutual distrust and agree to defer consideration of difficult issues (such as the repatriation of "Simon Trinidad" and "Sonia" and the freeing of the US hostages). He is working to generate confidence between the two parties, and suggested that the international community

could help in this regard. In this context, he has spoken with representatives of the Swiss Government, the Vatican, and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Polcouns noted we remain skeptical about the FARC's intentions and stressed President Uribe's commitment that the U.S. hostages would be included in any humanitarian exchange.

16. (C) Eastman confirmed Leyva's role as GOC interlocutor with the FARC, but said it is difficult to work with him. The GOC never knows if Leyva is transmitting a message from the FARC or is operating on his own account. Eastman said the GOC's lack of reliable, discreet interlocutors with the FARC forces the GOC to use the media to talk to the group. He added that the need for public negotiations greatly complicates communications and reduces prospects for success.
WOOD